(d) Statewise statistics of textile exports including silk is not maintained by Government. Presently the demand for Assam silk is more in the domestic market.

Proposed Mega Power Policy

*52. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Miniter of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the proposed Mega Power Policy recently formulated by Government;

(b) whether Government propose to involve the Reserve Bank of India in implementation of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its inability to involve itself in the matter; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Under the revised policy on development of mega power projects announced in November, 1998, certain porject sites, both in the Public as well as private sector have been identified as mega power projects which would cater to the power needs of more than one state. The Standing Independent Group constituted by the Government would initially be the apex bady to oversee implementation of the mega projects in the private sector. The principles of competitive bidding would be adhered to as far as possible, while obtaining tariff offers for private sector projects. These projects are being given certain concessions and are being linked to reforms. It is expected that these projects would result in low tariffs and would also help in catalysing reforms and accelerating the establishment of systems that would transfer power across states and regions.

As per the revised poliy, a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) has already been established with majority equity participation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), along with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Power Finance Cor-poration(PFC). Concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and financial institutions could also be involved as per requirement. PTC would purchase power from the identified private projects and sell it to the identified State Electricity Boards.

(b) Yes, Sir.
(c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Netaji Case Probe

*53. DR. GOPAL RAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem titled, "Netaji case probe yet to take off, which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 29th October, 1999;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the major hurdles which the Commission has been facing include finance and operative aspects, like issuing a formal advertisement in newspapers inviting people and witnesses who know about Netaji, to appear before the inquiry panel; and

(c) if so, what steps are being proposed by Government to remove the various hurdles of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that like any new set-up the Commission had the usual teething problems. This is because creation of basic infrastructure and other facilitites to make an organisation functional, invariably requires deliberations amongst the Ministries/Departments of the Government as per the procedural drill laid down in this behalf. However, with the allotment of office accommodation at Calcutta; provision of necessary budget; appointment of a Secretary to the Commission alongwith other key functionaries; designating officers as Head of the Department and Drawing & Disbursing Officer (DDO); allotment of a Pay & Accounts Office at Calcutta and the DDO Code to the Commission; etc., the Commission is now all set to go into the inquiry entrusted to it. The term of the Commission has already been extended for a period of six months beyond 14.11.1999, in response to the request received from the Commission.

The statutory notification inviting statements, representations etc. from interested persons is now being issued.